

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: Harris E

A HOUSE RESOLUTION to honor the first African American Men who were inducted in the United States Marine Corp and served in World War II.

Whereas, On June 25, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802, that established the Fair Employment Practice Commission, that open doors for approximately 20,000 black men to enlist in the United States Marine Corp for the first time; and

Whereas, the first black Marine recruits were trained at Camp Montford Point, near the New River at Jacksonville, North Carolina during World War II; and

Whereas, it became apparent, once given the chance to prove themselves, the new Black Marine recruits were just as capable as all other Marines regardless of race, creed or national origin; and

Whereas, Black Marines of the 8th Ammunition Company



and the 36th Depot Company landed on the Island of Iwo Jima on D-Day, February 19, 1945; and

Whereas, the largest number of Black Marines to serve in Combat in World War II took part in the seizure of Okinawa in the Ryuku Islands with some 2,000 Black Marines in combat during the campaign; and

Whereas, twenty years after World War II, in the summer of 1965, a group of Marine veterans united to coordinate plans for the first reunion of the Montford Point Marines; and

Whereas, over 400 former active duty marines representing seventeen states, attended the reunion held in the Adelphia Hotel in downtown Philadelphia, leading to the establishment of the not-for-profit Montford Point Marine Association; and

Whereas, the Montford Point Marine Association was chartered in Philadelphia and led to the organization of 36 chapters; and

Whereas, therefore it is appropriate to honor these men, who gallantly served with distinction their country in time of war against the Axis Powers of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Imperial Japan; and

Whereas, we remember the extraordinary acts of courage and exceptional service in defense of the United States of America, that the Montford Point Marines have rendered; therefore

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Montford Point Marines be remembered and



honored and that Indiana House of Representatives celebrate with the Montford Point Marine Association, “Montford Point Marine Day” as declared by that association.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the Indiana House of Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the Montford Point Marine Association.

